

TOWN OF WESTFORD HUNTING ON BOARD OF SELECTMEN LAND POLICY

All hunting laws and regulations of the Commonwealth shall be in force. There is no hunting on Sundays per Massachusetts Law.

In addition, the following rules are in effect for parcels under the custody of the Board of Selectmen.

Hunting is permitted by means of ARCHERY ONLY. Firearms hunting is not allowed on parcels under the custody of the Board of Selectmen.

Parcels and Permits

Selectmen parcels, which meet Massachusetts requirements for hunting, have been identified and may be hunted pursuant to the requirements set forth in this Policy. Westford Bow Hunting Permits shall be issued to Westford residents only. A valid Massachusetts hunting license is required. Permits will be granted through a lottery. If all slots are not filled through the lottery, permits will be issued on a first come first served basis. "Hunter Density" shall be limited to one hunter per ten acres, using standard rounding rules (e.g., 14 acres rates one hunter, 15 acres rates two hunters), or a minimum of one hunter per parcel.

Parcel Number*	Common Name	Address	Acreage	Hunters
027 0229 0000	Tadmuck Swamp North	Tadmuck Rd.	100.8	10
023 0046 0000	Tadmuck Swamp South	Littleton Rd.	24	2
035 0101 0000	Behind New Highway Garage Site	North Main St.	44	4
059 0047 0000	Behind Police/Fire Stations	53 Main St.	30	3
025 0015 0000	Old Landfill/New Meadow	Forge Village/Cold Spring Rd.	17.02	2
043 0013 0000	Behind Nab Golf Course	Groton Rd.	1.28	1

*Refer to Westford GIS for more information on these parcels.

Residents who wish to hunt Selectmen parcels not listed in the lottery may do so only if they obtain written permission from all applicable abutters and then make a written request to the Board of Selectmen for permission.

Hunting permits shall be non-transferable, and there shall be a one-permit-per-hunter limit with the permit valid for only one specified parcel. When applying for a permit, an applicant can specify which of the six identified parcels they wish to hunt in order of preference.

Applicants shall use their Massachusetts hunting license number to apply for their permit. If permit is issued, this ID number must be affixed to any tree stand or blind left unattended on Selectmen parcels. It must also be visible on their vehicle dashboard, and be available on their person while hunting on Selectmen parcels.

Lottery applicants shall be required to sign a statement saying that they have read and understand the Policy and agree to comply with the Policy. Individuals approved for a permit will be issued a permit, a copy of the Hunting Policy, and a map showing trail locations.

The Board of Selectmen may revoke a hunting permit in its sole discretion at any time. The Board shall

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provide the reason(s) for such revocation. The Board of Selectmen shall notify the permit holder of the date and time the subject will be discussed, and the permit holder will have the opportunity to be heard.

Hunter Conduct

Hunters must contact the Police Department business line at phone number (978) 692-2161 on the night before or day of hunting with their name, permit and license plate numbers, and hunting location.

Hunters must use a tree stand, or ground blind. No still hunting or stalking is permitted, except for tracking previously shot game.

On Selectmen parcels, permanent stands, or stands that permanently damage trees are not allowed. Portable stands or blinds must be removed within 31 days of the completion of the hunting season. Owner identification, (permit ID number) shall be affixed to any stand or blind left unattended. Stands or blinds on Selectmen parcels not meeting these requirements may be removed by the Town.

No hunter shall erect a tree stand or ground blind within 50 feet of a “designated trail”. No shots shall be released that might reasonably be expected to cross a designated trail or impact within the boundary zone. Designated trails will be specified and made available by the Board of Selectmen prior to each year's hunting permit lottery.

The Town is not responsible for loss or damage of tree stands or other hunting equipment, and is not responsible for any injuries resulting from their use.

Hunters are responsible for the removal of their own litter, debris, and arrows.

Hunters should be considerate of where they field dress their game. Hunters must stay at least 150 feet away from private property, roads, parking areas, standing or flowing water while field dressing game.

The Town encourages hunters to take advantage of the state's antlerless deer lottery and to take antlerless deer (does) whenever legally possible.

Hunting Seasons

Permit hunting on Selectmen parcels is allowed only from September 1st through December 31st in accordance with Massachusetts state law.

Any game species with an open season between September 1st and December 31st inclusive may be hunted as per Massachusetts state law. Seasons are available at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/>

Selectmen Responsibilities

Signage

All trail entrances identified for setbacks by the Board of Selectmen shall be clearly marked that Archery Hunting by Westford Permit Only is occurring from September 1st through December 31st and that more information is on the town web site (e.g. westfordma.gov/hunting). The sign should recommend that trail users wear orange during hunting season. Sign placement shall be determined with input from abutting owners.

Notification Requirements

Notification of lottery will take place in July with hunting permit applications due by the end of the first week in August and the hunting permit lottery held by the end of the second week in August, and with advertising done via local media, town website and email notification. Hunting permits are valid from September 1st through December 31st.

Hunting Seasons shall be available through links from Town Website to Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife no later than February 1st. Town email reminders regarding the lottery system shall be broadcast no later than July 1st. Town emails identifying parcels for which permits have been issued shall be broadcast no later than August 25th. Each email shall include links to Town regulations and a link to the *State Abstracts*.